Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 19 with the following amended paragraph:

When IKE negotiation or some other protocol is used for authentication, the second encryption key 22 is replaced with a modified second encryption key 22' (FIG. 4B), which is in turn used for data encryption (and decryption). The modified second encryption key 22' comprises a modified second base key 22a' that is identical to the second base key 22a, except that the length of the modified second base key 22a' is any number of bits, n, specified during IKE negotiation (or some other authentication protocol) with the second authentication key 23. Preferably, however, the modified second encryption key 22' does not have or need a key extension, since its bit length and encryption strength are determined via the authentication process with the second authentication key [[21]] 23.